

## **Workshop Overview**

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#### **Objectives and Expected Outcomes of the workshop**

This workshop reflects the ongoing partnership between ARS and the grape and grape products industry. The workshop sprang out of conversation between folks in the grape and grape products industry and ARS—the people in industry wanted to know more about the grape and grape products research that ARS scientists are doing and ARS scientists were eager to share about their research and where that research is headed. It's an exciting time for a dynamic industry—the grape and grape products industry has organized to establish goals for growth in economic impact and is counting on science to be the platform for progress. ARS scientists are conducting dynamic research on grapes and grape products in order to solve problems facing the industry—it's the right time to solidify our foundation for further growth together.

What do we plan to accomplish? Our workshop has two objectives:

- 1) to provide the grape and grape products industry with an overview of the current ARS research program on grape and grape products, and
- 2) to provide the industry with the opportunity to identify, define, and prioritize knowledge and technological gaps amenable to scientific research.

What do we expect to get out of the workshop? What are our expected outcomes?

First, a summary of observations, conclusions, and recommendations of the workshop that will be used as a guide in further research planning. This will be largely prepared and presented by workshop participants—we expect to hear the summary statements on Tuesday morning and a written version of the summary will be prepared also.

Second, we expect to develop enhanced engagement and dialogue between the grape and grape products industry and ARS. This will be an ongoing process. How will this be manifested? Through phone calls and email between ARS scientists and grape growers, packers, and processors. Through visits by grape industry members to ARS experimental vineyards. Through participation of ARS and industry scientists in research field days and scientific and technical meetings and so on. At ARS we hope that this research workshop will be the first of many regular meetings of ARS scientists and the grape and grape products industry. We invite you to meet with our scientists, visit our research facilities, and engage in discussion about experiments and research findings.

#### **Structure of the meeting:**

This afternoon we will hear from four ARS scientists. They will present overviews of grape and grape products research in each of four disciplines: Pest and Disease Management; Quality and Health; Genetics, Breeding, and Germplasm; and Physiology, Cultural Practices, and Sustainability. This will be an introduction to research currently underway in ARS. Then Nancy Irelan of E&J Gallo will present an introduction to the research priorities and needs of the grape and grape products industry. Tomorrow we will convene in breakout discussion groups organized on the disciplines introduced today. In the discussion groups we will analyze and

identify the research priorities and needs of the grape and grape products industry in the context of ARS research activity, capacity, and strengths. Are there critical research gaps? Can strength and capacity be matched to needs and priorities? Bring your experience, knowledge, and aspirations to bear. The research survey booklets which you have received provide an overview, in the scientists' own words, about the problems that they are addressing, the steps they are taking to solve those problems, and the impact their research already has had. ARS scientists will be on hand to provide more information about their research and answer your questions.

From the discussions we will develop a summary of the deliberations, observations, conclusions and recommendations of the workshop that will be used as a guide in further research planning. By "we" I mean the participants in this workshop—your active participation is critical for our success.

### **ARS research in grapes and grape products:**

The Agricultural Research Service is an agency of scientists engaged in agricultural research. Within the agency there are more than 2000 scientists addressing challenges facing agriculture. More than 25 ARS scientists are engaged in grape and grape products research as their primary focus, although numerous other scientists have grape and grape products research as a component of their research responsibilities. Our scientific effort in grape and grape products research is concentrated at several research locations. Over the next few days you will hear more about the scientists working at these locations and their research programs and projects:

Poplarville, Mississippi

Corvallis, Oregon

Fargo, North Dakota

Prosser, Washington

Weslaco, Texas

Parma, Idaho

Albany, Davis, and Parlier, California

Lane, Oklahoma

Geneva, New York

ARS scientists are engaged in grape and grape products research across the agency. While these are primary research locations, scientists in other locations are also investigating grape research topics. The USDA has been investigating grapes and grape products since at least 1867— that year the USDA reported variety observations for juice, wine, and table grapes.

### **How is research organized and directed?**

ARS is the research agency of the US Department of Agriculture. ARS receives instruction from Congress to address particular research areas and the funding to implement the desired research. Congress makes decisions about research based on public needs; stakeholders work directly with Congress to provide information on research priorities and needs.

At ARS, the National Program Staff works with stakeholders to determine the best way to carry out the research instructions from Congress. Sometimes the instructions from Congress are very specific; other times, the instructions are more general. The National Program Staff determines the scientific direction, scope, and trajectory of the research programs.

Area Directors implement the scientific plans in their respective geographic regions. There are eight geographic areas. Within the areas, research includes a broad variety of topics, not just related to grapes, but also animal science, water quality, agronomy, ornamental horticulture, and many other aspects of agriculture. Area Directors and their administrative staff members carry out the day to day scientific operations in their areas, including recruitment and oversight of scientists, facilities management, and budgetary and fiscal matters.

The National Program Staff coordinates scientific effort across Areas. Grape and grape products research covers a number of scientific disciplines and the National Program Staff ensures that research programs across the country are complementary and not duplicative or overlapping. By organizing scientific effort across scientific disciplines and geographic regions, multiple talents and strengths can be applied towards solving complex problems, such as the multidisciplinary approaches that ARS scientists are taking in addressing Pierce's disease of grapevines.

This research organization structure allows ARS to conduct many types of agricultural research. We carry out long term projects that are critical for sustained progress and impact in perennial vine crops like grape. We respond to pressing research crises, such as the glassy-winged sharpshooter. And with new research tools, we are accelerating the delivery of research products into the hands of grape growers, packers, and processors.

**Externally funded research:**

ARS scientists also participate in externally funded research. This increases our scientific impact. Externally funded research may be organized through competitive grants from outside agencies, through funding from industry, or from other sources. Externally funded research is complementary to primary research activity of our scientists; it extends their reach and augments their abilities, but is not meant to distract from their primary research.

**Intellectual property:**

We are here about research and its impact on the grape and grape products industry. When we consider impact of research, it could be likely that the impact would come in the form of an invention. That could be a new grapevine variety, a novel diagnostic technique, or an innovative device for viticultural management. Let me address the ARS perspective on intellectual property and intellectual property protection as it relates to the results of our research. Our goal and mandate is that our research must help. To that end, intellectual property from ARS research is protected only when that protection is necessary to accomplish implementation and deployment of research benefits. That is our standard for assessing intellectual property and determining if it should be protected. ARS research is conducted in order to solve problems and that objective guides our decision making processes.

**Relationship with universities:**

Our workshop has participants from three sectors of the grape research community: industry, ARS, and universities. Although our focus here is on ARS research and how that research relates to the research needs and priorities of the grape industry, it is important to consider the ARS research within the context of all public research, which includes vibrant and vital university research. Our university colleagues and cooperators are the key to many successful

ARS research projects. University grape program strengths include education and extension, which are essential parts of the dissemination and implementation of research findings. Several ARS grape research facilities are located on university campuses or near university grape research stations. We seek to complement universities and to leverage our respective strengths towards addressing the industry's challenges. Our relationship with universities across the country is both long-standing and increasing and we look forward to sharing our research projects and direction with our university colleagues.

**What will happen after this meeting is over?**

At ARS we are expecting to use the summary and report developed by the workshop participants as a guide to research analysis and planning. We expect that all workshop participants, whether from universities, the industry, or ARS, will learn more about the grape and grape products research in which ARS scientist are engaged, why that research is taking place, where it is headed, and how we expect that research to benefit the industry. We expect that ARS scientists and their projects will be more accessible to the public and stakeholders. We ask for your commitment to engagement, interaction, and dialogue so that ARS scientists can continue to solve important problems facing the grape and grape products industry